

Current Class: [REDACTED]
Current Handling: n/a
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3/25/83

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INFO OCT-00 COPY-01 ADS-00 INR-10 EUR-12 SS-10 CIAE-00
DODE-00 H-01 NSC-01 NSAE-00 HA-08 L-03 PM-09
PA-01 USIE-00 SP-02 SNP-01 PRS-01 /076 W
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R 252052Z MAR 83
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6793
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY ROME

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ROME ALSO FOR THE VATICAN

E.O. 12356: DECL:OADR
TAGS: SHUM, ECPS, PREL, AR, UK
SUBJECT: GOA CONFISCATES MAGAZINE, ORDERS EDITOR
ARRESTED

REF: 82 BUENOS AIRES 6251

ARGENTINA PROJECT (S200000044;

U.S. DEPT. OF STATE, A/RPS/IPS

Margaret P. Grafeld, Director

() Release ☒ Excise () Deny

Exemption(s): 63 PA

Declassify: () In Part ☒ In Full

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Date Declassify on Reason

1. SUMMARY: THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT HAS ORDERED
PEN ARREST OF THE EDITOR OF "LA SEMANA", THE LATEST
ISSUE OF WHICH WAS SEIZED EARLIER THIS WEEK. THE
EDITOR IS CHARGED WITH ALLEGEDLY BEING PART OF A
BRITISH "CAMPAIGN TO DESTABILIZE THE DEMOCRATIZA-
TION PROCESS". HE WAS STILL AT LARGE AND PRESUMABLY
IN HIDING AS OF MARCH 25, AFTER MAKING AN APPROACH
FOR US ASYLUM. END SUMMARY.

2. (U) BUENOS AIRES NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON MARCH 25
THAT THE GOA HAD ISSUED A DECREE ON MARCH 24 ORDERING
THAT JORGE ALBERTO FONTEVECCHIO BE ARRESTED AND
PLACED AT THE DISPOSITION OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH

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("PODER EJECUTIVE NACIONAL", KNOWN BY THE SPANISH
ACRONYM "PEN"). FONTEVECCHIO IS THE EDITOR OF A

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WEEKLY MAGAZINE, "LA SEMANA", WHICH RECENTLY HAS HAD THE SECOND-LARGEST CIRCULATION IN ARGENTINA, BEHIND "HUMOR". HE MAY BE CHARGED WITH BEING PART OF A BRITISH "CAMPAIGN TO DESTABILIZE THE DEMOCRATIZATION PROCESS", ACCORDING TO UNNAMED SOURCES IN THE MINISTRY OF INTERIOR. THOSE SOURCES TOLD REPORTERS THAT "THIS MINISTRY HAS INFORMATION ORIGINATING IN BRITAIN ABOUT A CAMPAIGN OF DESTABILIZATION BEING MOUNTED IN ARGENTINA FROM LONDON". THAT INFORMATION REPORTEDLY CAME FROM "SOURCES CLOSE TO THE (BRITISH) FOREIGN OFFICE", AND WOULD BE PART OF A FULLER REPORT THAT WILL BE MADE PUBLIC "IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS".

3. (U) NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS SAID THAT SECURITY PERSONNEL SURROUNDED THE EDITORIAL PERFIL BUILDING (WHERE "LA SEMANA" IS PUBLISHED) ABOUT EIGHT P.M. ON MARCH 24 AND SEARCHED FOR FONTEVECCHIO. ACCOUNTS ALSO SAID THAT THE SECURITY PERSONNEL DID NOT SHOW ANY WARRANT OR WRITTEN ORDERS, STATING ONLY THAT THEY WERE CARRYING OUT INSTRUCTIONS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH. FONTEVECCHIO'S FATHER WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT HIS SON MIGHT BE WITH LAWYERS DECIDING WHAT TO DO NEXT.

4. (U) THE GOA HAD BANNED AND CONFISCATED THE LATEST ISSUE OF "LA SEMANA" ON MARCH 23. THE REASONS GIVEN TO THE PRESS BY DIFFERENT UNNAMED GOA SOURCES VARIED: BECAUSE ITS CONTENTS "TENDED TO DISCREDIT THE ARMED FORCES BY ACCUSING THEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS"; AND DUE TO "INACCURACIES IN INFORMATION DEALING WITH THE ARMED FORCES". PAGES 6 TO 17 OF [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

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THAT ISSUE CARRY AN INTERVIEW WITH CAPTAIN ALFREDO ASTIZ, WHO SURRENDERED THE ARGENTINE GARRISON ON THE SOUTH GEORGIA ISLANDS DURING THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFLICT AND PREVIOUSLY WON SOME NOTORIETY IN EUROPE AS "THE BLOND ANGEL" IN THE DIRTY WAR. THE ISSUE ALSO CARRIES AN INTERVIEW WITH FORMER "QUORUM" MAGAZINE EDITOR JOSE PALOZZI, WHO LEFT ARGENTINA REPORTEDLY AFTER BEING REPEATEDLY THREATENED, UNDER THE HEADLINE "IT WASN'T THE MILITARY GOVERNMENT THAT TOOK OVER IN 1976 - IT WAS THE P-2 LODGE" (REFERRING TO THE ILLEGAL ITALIAN MASONIC LODGE CALLED "PROPAGANDA 2").

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5. [REDACTED]

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6. [REDACTED] THIS IS THE SECOND TIME IN THE LAST FIVE MONTHS THAT "LA SEMANA" HAS BEEN CHARGED WITH BEING PART OF A COORDINATED CAMPAIGN TO DENIGRATE THE ARMED FORCES. THE GOA SHUT DOWN "LA SEMANA" LAST OCTOBER 29 FOR ALLEGEDLY COMMITTING "DEGRADING ACTIONS AGAINST ESSENTIAL INSTITUTIONS OF THE COUNTRY" (REFTEL). "LA SEMANA" TOOK THAT CASE TO COURT, WON, AND BEGAN PUBLISHING AGAIN. THERE ARE SEVERAL THEORIES CIRCULATING TO EXPLAIN WHY THE GOA CRACKED DOWN AGAIN. ONE HOLDS THAT IT WAS THE ARTICLE ON ASTIZ, SHOWING HIM LIVING WELL IN BAHIA

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BLANCA WHEN THE GOA WAS SUPPOSEDLY LOOKING FOR HIM TO FACE A MILITARY TRIBUNAL FOR GIVING UP THE SOUTH GEORGIAS WITHOUT FIRING A SHOT. ANOTHER THEORY IS THAT THE ARTICLES ON ASTIZ AND THE P-2 SCANDAL IRRITATED RIGHT WING EXTREMISTS AND THEY HAD TO BE APPEASED. STILL ANOTHER IS THAT SEMANA'S SEQUESTERED EDITION HAD A TOOTHsome COVER MODEL (IT COULD BE A MAN), IDENTIFIED AS THE NIECE OF ARMY GENERAL LLAMIL RESTON, THE INTERIOR MINISTER.

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7. [REDACTED] AS FOR THE BRITISH ANGLE, THE GOA HAS
TENDED TO SEE A BRITISH HAND BEHIND EVERY ARGENTINE
SETBACK SINCE THE SOUTH ATLANTIC CONFLICT. MANY
ARGENTINE OFFICIALS, HOWEVER, SEEM TO SINCERELY
BELIEVE THAT BRITISH INTELLIGENCE DOES HAVE A
COORDINATED CAMPAIGN GOING AGAINST ARGENTINA.
SHLAUDEMAN

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